

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 356

By Hensley

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Tara Tiller on her selection as 2008-2009 Lewis County Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Tara Tiller of Lewis County Elementary School is one such estimable educator who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Tiller was recently selected by her peers as the 2008-2009 Lewis County Elementary School Teacher of the Year, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a teacher as it recognizes the positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, in accepting this prestigious award, Tara Tiller said, "Education will always be a first priority in the life of a person. The learning process begins when a child is born and continues until their life ends. Teaching and learning is a lifelong, everyday process"; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Tiller is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, a 1993 graduate of Lewis County High School, she attended Columbia State Community College from 1993 until 1996, earning her associate's degree before going on to receive her bachelor's degree in education from Middle Tennessee State University in 1998; and

WHEREAS, during her years in college, from 1993 until 1998, she worked for the Lewis County School System, committing her time and many talents to a variety of jobs; and

WHEREAS, an avid learner who deeply values education, Mrs. Tiller furthered her studies at Tennessee State University, where she earned her master's degree in administration and supervision in 2000; from there, she went on to complete her plus 30 at Cumberland University in 2001; and

WHEREAS, during her eleven years as an educator, Tara Tiller has mentored three of her fellow second grade teachers, served as Co-Chairman of component five for the SACS team for five years, wrote a technology grant for Lewis County Elementary School, mentored several service learning students, and stood as lead teacher for the second grade; and

WHEREAS, a woman with a profound entrepreneurial spirit, Mrs. Tiller worked with her colleagues to coordinate the Veterans Day program and parade, the Gold Star Mothers program, and the mock election day program; and

WHEREAS, she also served as an after school tutor for one year and has taken part in several professional development opportunities, including attending the second grade teacher conference and the seventh annual lead teacher conference; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated community leader, she is the Chairman of sponsorship and team recruitment for Relay for Life for Lewis County, as well as a team member and leader of the Lewis County Elementary School team; she also helps the school raise funds for its soccer, softball, baseball, dance, and cheernastics programs; and

WHEREAS, true to her entrepreneurial drive, Mrs. Tiller partnered with Deepwoods Realty and Auction to host a golf tournament to raise money for the St. Jude Children's Hospital; in addition, she worked with the Lewis County High School Marching Band from 2003 until 2006 and currently assists in coaching the seven- and eight-year-old girls softball team; and

WHEREAS, Tara Tiller is a devout member of New Hope Baptist Church, where she is active in the young adult class; and

WHEREAS, Tara Tiller strongly believes that safe and happy students learn better, and she works tirelessly to make her classroom a nurturing and safe place for her students to learn the core educational subjects as well as valuable lessons about everyday life; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Tiller truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Tara Tiller truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Tara Tiller upon being selected 2008-2009 Lewis County Elementary School Teacher of the Year, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.